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Letter dated 10 April 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Baku Declaration on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development in the Caspian Sea region and Other Oil Producing and Exporting Countries, which was adopted at the Baku Symposium on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development, held in Baku from 28 to 30 March 2006 (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 10 April 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Baku Declaration on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development in the Caspian Sea Region and Other Oil Producing and Exporting Countries

The Baku Symposium on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development, focusing on energy efficiency initiatives and achievements in countries of the Caspian Sea region and other oil producing and exporting countries, was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 28 to 30 March 2006. The Symposium was organized by the Government of Azerbaijan with the support of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

We, Ministers attending the Symposium, along with representatives of Governments, industry leaders, energy efficiency experts and academicians,

1. Express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the participation and support extended by the Ministries of Industry and Energy, Foreign Affairs, Economic Development, Transport, and Ecology and Natural Resources of the Government of Azerbaijan, which contributed significantly to the success of the Symposium.

2. Reaffirm our commitment to implement the outcomes of the Earth Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 World Summit, and in that context, promote energy efficiency and conservation.

3. Emphasize that energy efficiency plays an important role in helping countries to achieve sustainable development goals and stress that energy efficiency offers win-win solutions. The full potentials for energy efficiency promotion have yet to be explored.

4. Reiterate that energy efficiency introduces multiple advantages that address many energy challenges; contributes to the eradication of poverty as one of the Millennium Development Goals; increases job opportunities; improves air quality and public health; and enhances energy security.

5. Welcome the efforts made in the countries of the Caspian Sea region on increasing public awareness, including education and training; on the importance of energy efficiency and conservation; strengthening capacity-building, improving the performance of energy and materials use; integrating energy efficiency considerations into the planning, operation and maintenance of long-existing energy supply and use infrastructures.

6. Welcome also the initiatives and activities carried out on regional cooperation to promote energy efficiency, including, inter alia, within the framework of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation as well as Economic Cooperation Organization.

7. Stress that energy efficiency efforts will be more successful if they are backed by a supportive framework of policies and regulatory environment that may include: power sector reforms; utility demand-side management programmes; energy efficiency policies, laws and targets; the establishment of energy efficiency

agencies; voluntary agreements with industry; support and promotion of energy audits; and energy efficiency standards, codes, testing, certification and labelling.

8. Emphasize further that establishing energy efficiency standards and labels are cost-effective and proven methods to increase energy efficiency of electrical appliances and equipment, and buildings, industrial machinery and motor vehicles.

9. Recognize that, in order for oil-producing and exporting countries to continue to provide sufficient energy supply to the global market, they need access to advanced, cleaner and more efficient fossil fuel technologies, in particular in the upstream and downstream energy infrastructure, at an affordable price.

10. Emphasize further that barriers to optimizing energy efficiency in many countries involve mainly lack of access to technology, capacity-building and financial resources, as well as market-related and institutional issues.

11. Call upon the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions to focus, inter alia, on energy efficiency, while considering barriers and constraints in implementing international agreements on energy for sustainable development as well as policy options to overcome those barriers, and in this regard invite the Commission to consider the outcome of this Symposium in its deliberations.

12. Urge Governments, development banks and United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions and bilateral development agencies, to:

- Accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, as well as the transfer of such technologies, in particular to oil producing and exporting countries.
- Assign energy efficiency a higher policy priority in their programmes and strategies and allocate more resources to the activities on energy efficiency at the national, regional and global level.
- Provide technical and financial support for the development and harmonization of the legal framework on energy efficiency in oil producing and exporting countries, including, inter alia, through comparative analysis of existing frameworks.
- Consider the launching of a collaborative initiative of demonstration projects on public-private partnerships to promote energy efficiency at the city level, based on the successful experience of Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Facilitate the provision of appropriate technologies to oil producing and exporting countries for transforming solid fuels to liquid or gaseous fuels and applications of carbon capture and storage technologies.
- Provide technical and financial support to oil producing and exporting countries to overcome the barriers in controlling gas flaring and venting, including in associated gas reinjection in oil fields, to enhance oil recovery, gas lift systems, using associated gas, distribution of associated gas as fuel for utilities, and constructing and expanding the necessary infrastructure to transport the gas to markets.

- Help identify mechanisms to finance energy efficiency projects and the use of renewable energy in oil industries.

- Encourage entrepreneurship in the energy sector and facilitate institutional development, cooperation and networking among interested countries and their energy efficiency centres.

- Actively participate in capacity-building initiatives on energy efficiency in those countries and assist existing regional institutions that compile and disseminate information on energy efficiency programmes and technologies.

- Strengthen national and regional energy efficiency programmes, expand investments in energy efficiency technologies and support the transfer of such technologies to countries in need, including through innovative sources of funding, such as the Clean Development Mechanism.

13. Express our deep appreciation and thanks to the people and to the Government of Azerbaijan for hosting and successfully organizing this Symposium and for their generosity and hospitality, and request the Azerbaijani authorities to consider reporting the outcomes and Declaration of this Symposium to the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.